

The outlook for the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) and the International Union of Students (IUS) in 1958, from their standpoint, is far brighter than it was in early 1957. They weathered the repercussions of manifested youth unrest in the Soviet Bloc, particularly in Hungary, aided by the Suez Crisis and by the Moscow World Youth Festival. They gratefully exploited the Suez Crisis by waging an all-out propaganda campaign of "outrage" against imperialist aggression against Egypt. In doing so, they sought with some success: (a) to divert world youth's attention from the role of youth in the internal struggles within the Soviet Bloc and from WFDY-IUS betrayal of Hungarian youth in particular; (b) to recover some of their lost prestige by portraying the WFDY-IUS as ardent "champions" of nations struggling to retain or gain their independence; and (c) to stimulate widespread interest in and support for local and national Festival preparatory activities and large scale Free World participation in the Moscow World Youth Festival itself.

Both the WFDY and the IUS were organizationally strengthened by these world-wide preparatory activities and by the successful convocation in Moscow of their jointly-sponsored Sixth World Youth Festival. The pro-Soviet propaganda impact of the Festival on some 20,000 non-Bloc participants and 743 foreign correspondents was heightened by the apparent absence of controls and restrictions (which were deliberately relaxed or suspended during the Festival) and by the carefully contrived, dramatic manifestation of the Soviet Union's interest in peaceful, cooperative coexistence generally and, more specifically, in the problems of the non-Bloc participants.

Most favorably influenced were the Festival participants from the underdeveloped areas who were flattered by the red carpet treatment given them personally and the importance and attention given to problems of burning concern to them. They were also more impressed with the visible signs of Soviet social and economic progress than were participants from the industrialized and more highly developed areas of the world. Moreover, the psychologically favorable reaction to the Soviet technical achievement in launching the two "sputniks" in the fall of 1957 also helped to brighten the WFDY-IUS outlook for 1958.

Today the political climate and exploitable issues are more conducive to broader unity-of-action and greater mass support among Free World youth by the WFDY and the IUS than in early 1957. This is particularly true in the colonial and underdeveloped areas of the world. Consequently, both the WFDY and the IUS, in an effort to reap all benefits possible, have greatly expanded and diversified their programs of action for 1958 so that they cater to virtually all special needs and varying interests of all young people in each country and region. Particular effort is made to secure participation of unaffiliate organizations and individuals in those activities of common interest or mutual concern by pledging that their differing political viewpoints will be respected and by stressing the need to concentrate not on that which separates, but on that which unites them in order to achieve mutually desired objectives. All affiliated organizations have been urged to broaden as widely as possible their relations with member and non-member national and

international organizations alike through direct contacts and bilateral and multilateral exchanges in order to assist the WFDY and IUS to secure the closest possible cooperation with such organizations.

Emphasis is placed on WFDY and IUS stimulating and supporting, wherever possible, national, regional, and international activities not only by affiliated and unaffiliated organizations as well. Such activities are considered particularly useful since they serve as a useful "bridge" and draw bona fide groups into desired contact with the WFDY and IUS.

Greater stress has also been placed on the training of youth and student leaders in virtually all fields (sports, travel, rural and working youth, children, publications, girls, etc.) not only in meetings and seminars for such specialized youth and student leaders but also in more formal course lasting one to three months being planned by WFDY "on agronomy and mechanization of agriculture" for rural youth. To provide affiliated organizations with greater assistance in improving their work and increasing their effectiveness, WFDY and IUS are also bringing more "leaders" to their Headquarters for guidance and discussions and are sending more of their own officials on more prolonged field trips to meet with local leaders and activists and provide them with "on-the-spot" advice and directives. Such visits also provide an opportunity for transfer of necessary funds with which to carry on local operations. Moreover, material and financial assistance by WFDY and IUS to affiliates appears to be on the increase.

Increased emphasis is being given to work among children, adolescents and girls and to all forms of cultural exchanges, especially youth tourist travel programs. During the summer WFDY hopes to

involve some 100,000 young people in travel to the Soviet Union alone.

International exchange of correspondence is also being heavily "pushed" by the WFDY and IUS, with particular directives issued to participants to maintain correspondence contact with all persons who attended the Moscow World Youth Festival or took part in any of its preparatory activities.

Organizationally, the WFDY and the IUS have the prospect of gaining greater strength in the Afro-Asian world as a result of the Cairo Afro-Asian Conference's decision to establish a regional organization for youth, with affiliates throughout the area. Both WFDY and IUS were officially represented at this Conference by observers and have officially supported implementation of the Conference's decisions. WFDY now claims to have 94 affiliates in the Afro-Asian region with a combined membership of some 35 million young people. (It is assumed that Communist China, North Korea and North Vietnam are included in the claim.)

The WFDY and the IUS may be further strengthened by the decision to hold the Seventh World Youth Festival in late July 1959 in Vienna. This permits the many local, national and regional Festival "preparatory" committees created for the Moscow Festival to continue to function and, in many cases, to become "permanent" bodies. It is especially significant that the WFDY and IUS--for the first time in the history of their co-sponsorship of Festivals--have begun organizational preparations for the next Festival on the heels of the last. (Formal "international preparations" for the Seventh began in December 1957, whereas similar preparations for the Sixth began in August 1956, or only a year before the event as now contrasted with

some eighteen months before the next Festival.) By holding the Festival in Vienna, the sponsors are seeking to "legitimize it and increase its impact on Free World youth. They have even solicited UNESCO for financial support. However, in view of the fact that on 20 May 1958, UNESCO rejected the WFDY's and IUS's latest applications for consultative status, such assistance will probably not be given. In their concerted drive for UN recognition of some sort, both WFDY and IUS will seek to establish closer working relations with other specialized agencies of the UN, such as FAO, WHO, ILO, etc. Looking to the future, their affiliates have also been instructed to do everything possible to demonstrate support of UNESCO. In two years, when WFDY and IUS can reapply for consultative status, such "support" will be submitted as documentary "proof" of their good faith and eligibility for status.

Support of the Soviet peace offensive and the championing of the national liberation and anti-colonial movements constitute the major propaganda effort of the WFDY and IUS. As a result, particular targets are youth and student organizations in the underdeveloped and colonial areas of the world, as well as overseas student organizations.